REFLECTIONS
ON A
LIBEL,
INTITULED,
A Plea for the Apothecaries.

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REFLECTIONS

ON A

LIBEL.

For the Apothecaries.

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Reflections on a Libel, intituled, *A Plea for the Apothecaries.*

Reader, *Obſerve that* I. R. *ſignifies the Libeller*, W.C. *the Animadverter*, D.M. *the Perſon writ againſt by the Libeller.*

AFter twelve months conſideration, comes forth this Plea, written by an Apothecary, as appears page 41, 42. and perhaps the Author of this Paper could from *I. R*'s own Company have named him, and could tell, that though he were not commiſſionated, yet the preſentation thereof was liked by them: But for his gravity I ſhall ſpare the naming him, taking notice only of his matter and failings.

I. R. in page 41. 42. endeavours to gain a belief, becauſe (ſaith he) *he was never accounted a Liar*: That he is one, ſhall be firſt proved out of his falſe Quotations; in his Book, Page 8. *He refers you to ſomething lately publiſhed by an intelligent, knowing perſon of the ſame faculty*; but ſince he is aſhamed to name him, 'tis *H. Stubbs*, proved at large by *D. M.* and Mr. *Glanvil*, to be a moſt Impudent and notorious Slanderer and Liar. *I. R.* goes on, and ſaith, *he quotes him totidem verbis*, viz. *If I might take an eſtimate of his parts from his writings*, &c. *W.C.* diſparaging maliciouſly all *D. M*'s Books, whereas the words of

H. Stubb's are, from that writing, *viz.* the View. A ſecond is in page 24,25. *I. R.* ſaith *that* D. M. *will put in one grain, or two at moſt for an hundred, as was formerly demonſtrated from his own confeſſion.* See *Pag.* 15. *of* I. R's *Book:* where *D. M.* ſpeaks of Bills, and not of Preſcriptions, and thoſe too not of his own Bills (for he makes none) but of the Apothecaries rated Bills. Page 41. *I. R.* affirms, *D. M. would make the world believe, that the Company of Apothecaries combined with* H. S. *to aſperſe the Royal Society.* W. C. There's nothing of the Company of Apothecaries, nor of combination in *D. M*'s Book. Page 26. *I. R.* makes *D. M. to call his own medicines inconſiderable:* W. C. Which is abſurdly falſe. Page 33. He falſly pins theſe words on *D. M.* viz. *A Phyſician ought not to make uſe of any chargeable things.* No ſuch words in any of *D. M*'s books, nor doth *I. R.* quote any place where they ſhould be.

W. C. Lies of another order are p. 9, 10. that *D. M. ſuborned Dr.* Cox *to write his book againſt the Apothecaries.* p. 1. *That* D. M. *had an intention to invade their Profeſſion* (*W. C.* 'tis his birth-right, as has been proved) *which he ſaith hath been for many years conſtituted. W. C.* The contrary whereof he acknowledgeth. Page 2. *I. R.* goes on, and *ſaith the whole ſeries of Pharmacy* (underſtand theſe words who can) *by their good Laws hath been improved to as high, and laudable a Pitch, as in any forein Nation, or Republick whatſoever.*

W. C. Next follow his modeſt lies, wherewith he aſperſeth *D. M.* ſaying, *he is a Criminator, mad or blind, cajoles the Ladies, collogues Surgeons and Nurſes, ſetting the Nurſes cock a hoop, and chuſing them for his Mates; calls him* Sinon, Saul *among the Prophets for quoting St.* Auguſtine; *his Language is high, provoking, invective, abuſive; his many aſperſions unjuſtly charged, his former chat, Tale of a Tub, he rants, and chants, and will do ſo* in infinitum, *bauls and chants, Zealot*

for

for kindling coals, acts contrary to all good manners and ingenuity, his nakedneſs and rudeneſs; he hath as many tricks as a dancing Horſe, Hyperbolizeth to ſuch a height, he deceives and deludes; calls him impudent, Mountebank; ſaith he gives little or nothing, or nothing to the purpoſe to his Patients. Scornfully he ſaith, *the good Doctor, worthy Doctor, Domine Doctor, a learned Phyſician; a pretender to Philoſophy, a great Philoſopher,* &c. *His brave Heroic Roman valour, his humour of vapouring, his imaginary confidence*; with much more to the ſame purpoſe from this modeſt man.

W. C. Next follows the malice of this Zealot for kindling coals (as he phraſeth it) to *D. M.* in ſeveral places, *Page* 5, 9, 14, 15, 17, 18, 46. to ſet his Collegues and moſt of his own Profeſſion againſt him by childiſh and pitiful deductions. But that all this is falſe, the chooſing by vote of *D. M.* and Dr. *Goddard* Cenſors for this preſent year evidently demonſtrate to all the world, that the College judge they have not aſperſed or injured any of their Faculty.

W. C. Now I come to the matter of his Plea, wherein he acknowledgeth all the Frauds, and abuſes to Patients, and Phyſicians, complained of in the View, endeavouring only ſillily to evade ſome, as will appear by what followeth: Page 3. (He ſaith) *he will not countenance any of their members to take upon them the practice of Phyſick; nor that they ſhould repeat a whole courſe of Phyſick without the directors knowledge.* And p. 36. *That the Apothecary of his own head in any caſe of difficulty or danger* (mark that) *ſhould dare to undertake the cure of the Patient without conſulting the Phyſician; He conceives that the Apothecary doth not therein diſcharge his duty.* But page 40. contrary to what hath been before ſaid, *he reſtrains them* only *from the profeſſed cuſtomary practice of Phyſick.* Page 2. *He believes there may be ſome perſons, that uſe medicines quite contrary to the*

Preſcriptions,

Preſcriptions, and falſifie the grand compoſitions of the London *Diſpenſatory.* And Page 12. *That the whole-ſale-men ſell not medicines honeſtly made.* Page 13. *he confeſſeth the ſeventh, eighth, and ninth Criminations.* And page 14. *to the firſt eight he hath nothing to ſay.* Page 27. *Commends* Zwelfer *for reforming Mithridate and Treacle,* which the ſame Author alſo calls abſurd and ridiculous, which words are far higher than [unintelligible and unreaſonable] of *D. M's.* Page 29. *That 'tis above the Sphere of the Company of Apothecaries to meddle with Medicines, which are beſt, or to make any alteration in Compoſitions.* Page 32. *He ingenuouſly acknowledgeth, that the Apothecaries might better keep their Shops, and do the Patients better ſervice than by their Viſitings.* Page 39. *That Phyſicians may uſe their own Arcanums, or Preparations, and that upon juſt grounds they may turn out the Apothecaries.* Page 40. *He cannot judge it reaſonable that the Apothecaries ſhould diſcover the Phyſicians Arcanums. W. C.* By this the Reader may eaſily perceive he acknowledgeth all the material things *D. M.* complains of; what he doth not, now followeth page by page. In reply to whom *W. C.* will give you the bare objections and anſwers, leaving out his impertinently quoted Latine, and farcing in things to no purpoſe to miſlead the unconſidering Reader.

Pag. 1. Three falſities have been mentioned in it.

Pag. 2. Contains only ill language, and his own unfitneſs to anſwer.

Pag. 3, 4. mentions ſome things (he ſaith) he will not intrench on the Phyſicians, and ſuch as *D. M.* complains of.

Pag. 5. ſaith *D. M. aſperſeth his own Profeſſion,* beſides ſome words of railing.

Pag. 6, 7. he chargeth *D. M. for putting in Pharmacopœus in the*

the old Diſtich, and that it is in larger Characters. W. C. Nothing's more ordinary with all Writers than to change words, and fit them for their purpoſe; and therefore *Judæus*, and *Monachus* are left out, becauſe we have none ſuch in *England* that practiſe Phyſick; beſides *Pharmacopœus* makes the better Verſe. As for the diſtinction of the Character it might be the work of the Compoſer, who uſually prints in large Characters the Argument of the Book. But why doth *I. R.* miſ-quote and foiſt in *Prophanus* in the Hexameter, which was *Sacerdos* in the Copy?

Pag. 7, 8. He miſ-quotes Mr. *Stubbs* (as hath been ſaid) and reviles.

Page 9. barely affirms that *D. M.* ſuborned Dr. *Cox* to write his book.

Page 10, 11. he borrows of *Lex Talionis* an anſwer to the Apothecaries Axiom, that Apothecaries may be the verieſt knaves, *&c. by ſaying the Doctors that make medicines may be ſo*, the contrary whereto *D. M.* hath proved at large in ſeveral places.

Pag. 11, 12, 13. are ſome of his confeſſions before-mentioned, only laughs at the ſtory of the Seeds-man, and *D. M.*'s man. No ſuch word as [Man] in the text. Every Seeds-man will tell you 'tis their common practice, and is this ridiculous, that they ſhould buy decayed Seeds, and only ſuch which are univerſally the beſt part of the Plant? 'Tis a horrid cheat, and abuſe. Page 14, *&c.* either confeſſeth, or endeavours to make a diviſion betwixt *D. M.* and his Collegues, and is ſtuft with reviling language.

Page 15, 16. For the putting in of Bezoar and Pearls to increaſe their Bills, though there be but a grain or two in the receipt. *I. R.* anſwers, *Some of the College, and alſo* Zwelfer *mentions* 100, *or* 120 *grains given at a doſe.* W. C. Much to the purpoſe; *D. M.* chargeth them with over-

rating

rating their medicines; *I. R.* answers, *Physicians give large doses.*

Page 16,17,18,19. Pleads for the dear Bills of the Apothecaries, and in the whole saith no more than that conscionable Bills made with good medicines ought to be paid; which no body denieth.

Page 20. Reviles. Confesseth, and saith that *D. M.* may mistake as well as the Apothecaries.

Page 21. *I. R.* saith, *the Company disown any uncivil deportment of Apothecaries to Physicians.* W. C. This *I.R.* denies none of the affronts, *&c.* by their particular members, nor any of the actings of the whole Company against the College publickly. *Ibid.* he saith, *D. M. stumbles at a straw, and saith Patients will call themselves so. W. C. D. M.* hath proved it to be nonsense to call the sick theft Patients, and finds no fault with the sick for calling the Apothecary Doctor, but with the Apothecary for taking that title upon him: but whosoever shall consider, what influence words have on the Vulgar, will not think it straw. Let but the people be inured to call the Apothecary Doctor, they will soon think him a fit and lawful Practitioner, and will make no difference betwixt the ignorantest Apothecary and the learnedst Physician: but what an inference is it, to say that *D. M.* gives the lie to the sick, when he only speaks of the arrogance of the Apothecary? *Ibid. I. R.* saith, *'tis not the desire of most persons to take medicines of Physicians.* W. C. This I suppose *D. M.* spake as he found it, but I have heard him lately say, that eight or nine persons have been seduced from him by the Apothecaries, of which he hath only heard by their deaths; as to understanding persons *I. R. wittily answers, some men are wise, some over-wise, some other-wise.*

Pag. 22,23. Whereas *D. M.* saith, Physicians will avoid the trouble put upon them by the Apothecaries Ignorance.

I. R.

I. R. replieth, *that Physicians may mistake their doses*, and tells a story *of three drachms of* Laudanum *prescribed for three grains*. *W. C. D. M.* speaks of the Apothecaries Ignorance, and *I. R.* of the Physicians over-dosing; and as for the good Doctor he is already quit of the ignorance and frauds of the Apothecaries, plainly thereby preferring the life of his Patients before his own ease or profit.

Page 24. *I. R.* Foolishly infers with *Lex Talionis*, *that* D. M. *judgeth none of the Apothecaries honest*; the contrary whereof is manifest in two places of his View.

Page 25. Recriminates, saith *D. M. imployeth some novice to make his medicines, while he is taking his recreations, and indulging his genius*. W. C. This is false, the Doctor imployeth a man who hath a Supervisor besides himself, who can do any thing better than the Apothecaries boys, and doubtless than any of the Masters; and how much *D. M.* indulgeth his genius in recreations, all that know him can say, as little as any man. *Ib.* and 26. *D. M.* by Patients taking Medicines of Physicians, most of the great charges of Apothecaries Bills will be saved. *I. R.* asks *how this will hold water*, and then recites out of *D. M.* how it may be done. *W. C.* This needs no other answer, than that 'tis done *de facto*, and to be sure if he had done any thing but what he professeth, this Libeller would have branded him for it. 'Tis strange that *I. R.* should so miscensure Medicines he hath never seen, who doth in his own Paper acknowledge his unfitness to judge of Medicines.

Page 27, 28, 29. Tells the Reader what esteem some have had of Mithridate and Treacle. *W. C.* See his confessions before.

Page 30. Whereas *D. M.* tells Physicians they will improve their knowledge; *I. R.* replieth *high Language. Admiranda canit, sure the Doctor hath got the Philosophers stone*, &c. *Ibid.*

Ibid. whereas *D. M.* ſaith, when Diſpenſatories were firſt made, Apothecaries were Phyſicians ſervants. *I. R.* infers, Ergo *the Doctor intitles himſelf Maſter.*

Page 31. *W. C. D. M.* ſaith by this means Phyſicians honour will be doubled. *I. R.* replieth, *Honeſty is the greateſt honour maugre what* D. M. *would infer to the contrary.*

Page 32,33. Contains his good language, confeſſions, his childiſh anſwering to the great charges Phyſicians are put to before they come into practice, and asks, *whether thoſe great ſums came out of the clouds. W. C.* This cannot be better anſwered than by *I. R*'s way, a Proverb, *viz. His Father was born before him.*

Pag. 34. Accuſeth *D. M. for leaving* London *in the Plague time*, and tells the Ladies *how their Grandmother* Eve *was Cozened by the Devil*; and then page 35. ſaith, *'tis abſolutely impoſſible for a Phyſician to prepare his Medicines in the time propoſed by D. M. W. C.* 'Tis true, 'tis ſo for an Apothecary that is to diſpenſe for ſeveral Phyſicians, and alſo long and tedious diſpenſations: but the Doctors meaning by preparing is no otherwiſe than to ſee them well done; and 'tis no more than when the Apothecaries ſay, I have prepared my Medicines, though the thing be actually done by his Servants; and this pitiful Scribler makes no difference between diſpenſing of Medicines, and curing of Patients.

Page 35,36. Suppoſeth Phyſicians to be the firſt aggreſſors, the contrary whereof hath been proved at large.

Page 36,37,38,39,40. Confeſſeth things to be true they are accuſed for.

Page 41,42. Endeavours with a ſtrong aſſeveration to vindicate the *Company from any combination with* H. S. *againſt the Royal Society*, which no body hath accuſed them of, as hath been beforeſaid.

Page 42,43,44 I. R. comments on *Ambubaiarum collegia*, saying, *'tis a hard word to pose a man that is not book-learned, as the Doctor saith he is able to do. W. C.* He should have added in their own trade. *Ibid.* I. R. saith *the murthering Apothecary in* Cicero *was no shop-Apothecary.* W. C. *D. M.* doth not say he was, and with good reason, for there were none such then. And lest *H. S.* should suppose *W. C.* to be a Virtuoso, and so lash him for not taking notice of a Criticism; observe how *I. R.* construes the word *Circumforane*, which according to the true Etymology, may better be construed to make a Pillory for Libellers necks, then as this man of Latine (to no purpose) expounds it, *viz.* To go from one Market Town to another.

Page 45, 46. Recriminates *D. M.* for saying an Apothecary practised ill without putting the case (ridiculously) and infers, *That he hath therein aspersed the honourable College*; saying, *They have more candor and ingenuity in them, than to assume any such unlimited power, which no Law doth, or can allow*; and then proves out of *Job* that a Physician ought not to find fault with Apothecaries, and that because the *Apothecaries are Gods creatures.*

Page 47,48. contains little but railing; and 45. saith, *that Dr.* Maranta *and* Schroder *dedicated books, the former to* Imperatus, *the later to the Apothecaries of* Francfort; he should have added, they were his Kinsmen, and assisted him in his book; and 'tis apparent that *D. M.* would have given due praises to any Apothecary living (if there had been any such) that had contributed but one natural thing to his Pinax.

Page 48, 49. Concludes with the opinion of *Renodeus* affirming, that the prescribing and compounding are to be committed to persons distinctly. *W. C.* But in the place quoted, *Renodeus* doubtless supposed that Apothecaries

kept themselves in their own trade, and made their medicines honestly, as they did in *England*, when he writ that Treatise.

From what hath been briefly said, observe how little the Apothecaries have to say for themselves, and what material things *I. R.* hath spoke to. Observe also his Margin, and you will find him pass over several pages together of *D. M.*'s book, which contains nothing but what is substantial, and to the purpose; not answering one argument in the View, only taking occasion from some places to rail at his Person and Medicines; besides of 50 pages in his Pamphlet, there are 17 of them either preliminary, or not to the View, as his Title pretends. Again, take notice how ridiculous his answers are, and that most that he hath said is not to the purpose; And lastly, that if this modest Author shall tell so many lies, and use so many scandals against *D. M.* in Print, what will not he and his Brethren do behind his back?

FINIS.